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Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Fifth session
Maastricht, the Netherlands, 30 June and 1 July 2014
Item 7 (c) of the provisional agenda
Programme of work and operation of the Convention: Work programme for 2015–2017

Draft decision V/6 on the work programme for 2015–2017 for the Convention

Summary

At its fourth session (Chisinau, 29 June–1 July 2011), the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters tasked the Working Group of the Parties and the Bureau with the preparation of substantive documents for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties, including the drafting of the future work programme (see ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1, decision IV/6, annex I, item X).

In accordance with that mandate, the present document sets out a draft decision on the work programme for 2015–2017 for the Convention. A preliminary draft of the document was prepared by the Bureau in line with the comments received on the draft elements of the work programme for 2015–2017 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2013/12),[1] when it was reviewed at the sixteenth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties (Geneva, 19–21 June 2013), as well as the comments received thereafter by the secretariat. The draft document was subsequently distributed for further consultation to Parties and stakeholders. The Bureau then considered all the comments received, and prepared a revised version of the draft decision, which it resubmitted for the Working Group's further consideration, revision and approval at its seventeenth meeting (Geneva, 26–28 February 2014).

At its seventeenth meeting, the Working Group further revised and approved, as

[1] Available from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/wgp16.html.

amended at the meeting, the draft decision on the work programme for 2015–2017 (AC/WGP.17/CRP.6),[2] and requested the secretariat to submit it to the Meeting of the Parties for consideration at its fifth session.

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[2] Available from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/wgp17.html.

The Meeting of the Parties,

Recalling its decision I/11 on the procedures for the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes,

Taking into account the Strategic Plan for 2015–2020 for the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) adopted through decision V/5, and the scheme of financial arrangements adopted through decision V/7,

1. *Adopts* the work programme for 2015–2017, containing the estimated costs of each activity, as set out in annex I to this decision;

2. *Agrees* upon the indicative allocation of resources and the resulting estimated costs set out in annexes I and II, subject to annual review and, as appropriate, revision by the Working Group of the Parties on the basis of annual reports provided by the secretariat pursuant to decision V/7 on financial arrangements;

3. *Encourages* Parties to endeavour to ensure that the funding of the activities of the work programme remains stable throughout the period 2015–2017;

4. *Also encourages* Parties, insofar as possible, and subject to the internal budgetary procedures of the Parties, to contribute to the Convention's trust fund for a given calendar year by 1 October of the preceding year, so as to secure staff costs for the smooth functioning of the secretariat, as a priority, and the timely and effective implementation of the priority activities of the work programme for 2015–2017;

5. *Reiterates* its commitment to implementing the Almaty Guidelines on Promoting the Principles of the Convention in International Forums (Almaty Guidelines), through all the activities of the work programme, as relevant;

6. *Decides* to give general priority[3] to issues related to compliance and implementation, including capacity-building;

7. *Also decides* to give particular priority to the following substantive issues:

(a) Access to justice;

(b) Public participation;

(c) Access to information;

8. *Calls* on the Parties, and invites Signatories, other States and relevant intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations, to contribute actively to the activities contained in the work programme;

9. *Requests* the secretariat, taking into consideration the results of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for 2015–2020 and the work programme for 2015–2017, to prepare a draft work programme for the intersessional period following the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties, including a detailed breakdown of estimated

[3] The primary function of the prioritization indicated in paragraphs 6 and 7, apart from explaining and reflecting the proposed allocation of resources in the annexes, is to provide guidance in situations in which there is a significant discrepancy between the actual income and the estimated financial requirement. If there is a significant shortfall in resources, then savings need to be made, and the prioritization provides guidance as to where those savings should be made. If there are surplus resources that are not earmarked, then the prioritization provides guidance as to how that surplus may be used. If the resources available closely match the estimated requirements set out in the annexes, the resources can simply be applied as indicated therein, i.e., there is no need for any further exercise of prioritization.

costs, for consideration and further elaboration by the Bureau and the Working Group of the Parties, at the latest three months before the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties, with a view to possible adoption at that meeting;

10. *Further requests* the secretariat to ensure that an estimated costing for each draft decision finalized by the Working Group of the Parties during the intersessional period is properly reflected in the draft work programme for 2018–2020, in due time for the preparation of the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties, in order to enable Parties to better prioritize activities and allocate sufficient financial resources in the budget to take them forward.

Annex I

Draft work programme for 2015–2017

Work area	*Objective and expected outcome*	*Lead country, body or organization*	*Method of work*	*Average annual subtotal (US$)*
Substantive issues				
I. Access to information, including electronic information tools	Widen the range of environmental information made available to the public, including product information, and exchange of information and good practices, with a focus on several issues, including: (a) The distribution, quality and comparability of environmental information through the effective use of electronic information tools and sharing of good practice; (b) The further improvement of the implementation of the existing information obligations under the Convention; (c) The scope of environmental information, the provision of environmental information from different public authorities, associated costs, and the quality and comparability of the environmental information; (d) The application of the restrictions on access to environmental information in accordance with the Convention's provisions. Monitor implementation of the Recommendations on the More Effective Use of Electronic Information Tools to Provide Public Access to Environmental Information (ECE/MP.PP/2005/2/Add.4, annex). Provide policy and guidance for the Aarhus Clearinghouse. Upgrade and use the Clearinghouse to facilitate the collection, dissemination and exchange of information related to the national implementation of the Convention and relevant global and regional developments on Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. Continue cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment and the European Environment Agency towards supporting a Shared Environment Information System. Monitor technical developments in information and	Task Force on Access to Information Secretariat, enlisting technical support as necessary	Task Force meetings and workshops; survey(s); participation in other relevant regional initiatives, as appropriate, through development of sector-based partnership approaches; pilot projects and capacity-building activities at the subregional and national level, which are expected to be funded by partners. Central management of the Aarhus Clearinghouse and promotion through online social media; provision of advice to and coordination of national and information nodes of the clearinghouse mechanism; information sharing and promotion of electronic tools through maintaining online databases for jurisprudence and national implementation reports, and maintaining online case studies on (a) public participation at the national level, and (b) public participation in international forums.	153 250

Work area	*Objective and expected outcome*	*Lead country, body or organization*	*Method of work*	*Average annual subtotal (US$)*
	communication technology.			
II. Public participation	Identify common difficulties and the main obstacles to effective public participation in all types of decision-making and at all levels (national, provincial, local) within the scope of articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Convention; and coordinate the collection and exchange of good practices to address the common difficulties and the main obstacles identified, including through the further development of the online compendium of case studies in public participation in decision-making. In order to inform the future work of the Task Force on Public Participation, review the application of the recommendations on public participation in decision-making, including through written surveys to Parties and stakeholders. In addition to considering public participation in environmental decision-making generally, focus on public participation in decision-making in such fields as decision-making for sustainable development; climate-change related decision-making, the nuclear domain; energy-related planning and policymaking, and the extractive sector; and if resources allow, decision-making on chemicals; food and agriculture; emerging technologies (e.g., nanotechnology) and product-related decision-making. Provide advisory assistance to partner organizations on training of public officials involved in the day-to-day task of carrying out public participation procedures covered by the Convention; provide a forum for sharing the results of researchers focusing on participatory processes and environmental decision-making; and assess, keep under review and explore further possibilities for development of the provisions of the Convention relating to public participation.	Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making Secretariat	Task Force meetings; workshops; collection of case studies; exploring synergies and possibilities for cooperation with relevant bodies under other multilateral environmental agreements and partner organizations. Participation in other relevant regional initiatives as appropriate; pilot projects and capacity-building activities at the subregional and national levels, which are expected to be funded by partners.[a]	133 160

Work area	*Objective and expected outcome*	*Lead country, body or organization*	*Method of work*	*Average annual subtotal (US$)*
III. Access to justice	Implementation of the decisions adopted at the fourth and fifth sessions of the Meeting of the Parties, as well as previous decisions, as appropriate; exchange of information, experiences, challenges and good practices relating to the implementation of the third pillar of the Convention, on such issues as costs, remedies, scope of review, timeliness, protection against persecution and harassment; identification of priority needs with respect to public access to justice in environmental matters; raising of awareness of the access to justice provisions of the Convention; and building of capacity among key groups of stakeholders, such as the judiciary, public interest lawyers and other legal professionals,[b] through organizing joint events with existing networks and other organizations. As resources allow, prepare analytical, guidance and training materials to support this work area.	Task Force on Access to Justice Secretariat, enlisting expert support as necessary	Task Force meetings, if feasible back to back with other relevant capacity-building events, to be organized in liaison with partner organizations active in access to justice, and through development of sector-based partnership approaches, where appropriate. Strengthen cooperation with existing networks of judges and other legal professionals, as well as other international forums, to exchange information and support capacity building. Develop analytical and training materials. Pilot projects and capacity-building activities at the subregional and national levels, which are expected to be funded by partners.	137 160
IV. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)	Support the implementation of decision II/1 on GMOs (GMO amendment) and relevant provisions of the Convention in this area, as well as the application of the Guidelines on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice with Respect to Genetically Modified Organisms (MP.PP/2003/3), inter alia, by promoting exchange of information on common difficulties and the main obstacles to their implementation, as well as good practices to address them.	Secretariat, in close cooperation with other stakeholders	Workshop(s); survey(s); advisory support to, and cooperation with, relevant bodies under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity; advisory support to countries upon request; and use of the Aarhus Clearinghouse to facilitate exchange of information on good practices.	36 923
Procedures and mechanisms				
V. Compliance mechanism	Monitor and facilitate the implementation of and compliance with the Convention. Increase support to individual Parties in following up on decisions on compliance	Compliance Committee Secretariat	Compliance Committee to review submissions, referrals and communications on cases of possible non-compliance, prepare decisions and reports and undertake fact-finding missions. Compliance Committee to explore possible synergies with other relevant forums. Secretariat to publicize the mechanism, manage the Committee's web page and develop a database of the Compliance Committee's findings.	289 410

Work area	*Objective and expected outcome*	*Lead country, body or organization*	*Method of work*	*Average annual subtotal (US$)*
VI. Capacity-building	Coordination of capacity-building activities to assist countries in the effective implementation of the Convention; implementation of capacity-building measures at the regional and subregional levels.	Secretariat, in close cooperation with other relevant stakeholders	Annual inter-agency coordination meetings; maintaining the Convention's web pages with information on capacity-building activities; use of the Aarhus Clearinghouse to facilitate exchange of information on good practices; training workshops and technical assistance, mostly separately funded under other substantive work areas; capacity-building activities at the national and subregional levels, which are expected to be funded by partners.	52 135
VII. Reporting mechanism	Production of national implementation reports and a synthesis report.	Secretariat, enlisting expert and administrative support as necessary Compliance Committee	Preparation and processing of national implementation reports. Analysis of reports and preparation of a synthesis report. Adjustment of guidance on reporting requirements, as needed.	10 000
Awareness-raising and promotion				
VIII. Awareness-raising and promotion of the Convention, including through: VIII.1. Communication Strategy VIII.2. Promotion of the principles of the Convention in international forums VIII.3. Support to non-ECE States to accede to the Convention VIII.4. Support to regional and global initiatives on	Raise public awareness of the Convention throughout the ECE region and beyond; increase the number of Parties to the Convention; support regional and global initiatives on Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration. Activities should be carried out in synergy with the relevant activities of the work programme of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs).	Secretariat Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties Working Group of the Parties	Participation in key regional and international events and processes; use of bilateral, regional and international cooperation arrangements to raise interest in the Convention, e.g., the European Neighbourhood Policy; feed into international processes that closely relate to the Convention, including, the special procedures under the United Nations Human Rights Council (depending on the mandate), the United Nations Environment Programme, the international financial institutions and other relevant international forums. Expert assistance to regional and global initiatives on Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration; support to relevant events organized by others; missions and assistance to countries organized at the request of host Governments, with a focus on States that have expressed formal interest in becoming Parties to the Convention.	109 570

Work area	*Objective and expected outcome*	*Lead country, body or organization*	*Method of work*	*Average annual subtotal (US$)*
Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration			Implementation of the Communication Strategy; website management; preparation of leaflets, publications, news bulletins, articles and other information materials.	
IX. Promotion of the Almaty Guidelines and other interlinkages with relevant international bodies and processes	Further the application of the principles of the Convention throughout all activities under the Convention, as appropriate, and in the context of the work of relevant international bodies and processes, inter alia, through the promotion of the Almaty Guidelines and the Recommendations on the More Effective Use of Electronic Information Tools to Provide Public Access to Environmental Information and monitoring of their implementation.	Secretariat Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties Working Group of the Parties	Thematic sessions, on a needs basis, at meetings of the Working Group of the Parties to oversee progress in promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums and to address challenges encountered in the implementation of article 3, paragraph 7, of the Convention. Surveys regarding experiences gained in the implementation of article 3, paragraph 7, and the Almaty Guidelines; online networks; expert assistance to relevant international forums and to Parties upon request and developing a repository of good practices on establishing effective processes for the public to participate in international forums; joint activities with other treaties and multilateral processes; concrete actions by Parties at the national and international level to promote the principles of the Convention in international forums, and the Almaty Guidelines. Subject to resources, commissioning a study on how to make public participation in international forums more effective.	39 035
Coordination, horizontal support and Meeting of the Parties				
X. Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities	Coordination and oversight of the activities under the Convention. Preparation of substantive documents for the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties (e.g., drafting decisions, the future work programme, reviewing the implementation of the current work programme and the Strategic Plan).	Working Group of the Parties Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties	Working Group meetings, meetings of the Bureau and consultations among Bureau members electronically.	123 503
XI. Sixth ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties	See article 10 of the Convention.	Meeting of the Parties	Session of the Meeting of the Parties.	—[c]

Work area	*Objective and expected outcome*	*Lead country, body or organization*	*Method of work*	*Average annual subtotal (US$)*
XII. Horizontal support areas	Overall support that covers multiple substantive areas of the work programme.	Secretariat	Secretarial support, staff training, equipment.	150 000
Total (including costs for all work areas and 13% programme support costs)				**1 394 586**

[a] Experts involved in the work of the Task Force will be invited to provide substantive support to the activities through commenting documents and participating in trainings, workshops, pilot projects etc. Meetings of the Task Force will provide a forum to discuss key outcomes of the activities and identify good practices and challenges in implementation.

[b] Experts involved in the work of the Task Force will be invited to provide substantive support to the activities through commenting documents and participating in trainings. Meetings of the Task Force will provide a forum to discuss key outcomes of the activities and identify good practices and challenges in implementation.

[c] Costs are reported under work area X.

Annex II

Estimated costs of activities of the work areas proposed in the work programme for 2015–2017

Work area	*Cost type*	*Description*	*Average estimated costs in US$ per year*[a]			
			2015	*2016*	*2017*	*2015–2017 annual average*
I. Access to information[b]	Staff time	Professional support, two P–3 staff: one at 30 per cent and one at 20 per cent of full-time equivalent (FTE)	90 450	90 450	90 450	90 450
	Subcontracts	Consultancy (e.g., upgrade and maintenance of Aarhus Clearinghouse and Aarhus good practice database)	15 000	15 000	15 000	15 000
	Travel, daily subsistence allowance (DSA) (experts/participants)	Travel of eligible participants (3 meetings)	40 800	40 800	40 800	40 800
	Travel, DSA (staff)	Missions	7 000	7 000	7 000	7 000
Subtotal			**153 250**	**153 250**	**153 250**	**153 250**
II. Public participation	Staff time	Professional support, one P–3 staff at 40 per cent of FTE	72 360	72 360	72 360	72 360
	Subcontracts	Consultancy (e.g., preparation of the required materials)	13 000	13 000	13 000	13 000
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	Travel of eligible participants (3 meetings)	40 800	40 800	40 800	40 800
	Travel, DSA (staff)	Missions	7 000	7 000	7 000	7 000
Subtotal			**133 160**	**133 160**	**133 160**	**133 160**
III. Access to justice	Staff time	Professional support, two P–3 staff: one at 30 per cent and one at 10 per cent of FTE	72 360	72 360	72 360	72 360
	Subcontracts	Consultancy (e.g., preparation of the required materials)	17 000	17 000	17 000	17 000
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	Travel of eligible participants (3 meetings)	40 800	40 800	40 800	40 800
	Travel, DSA (staff)	Missions	7 000	7 000	7 000	7 000
Subtotal			**137 160**	**137 160**	**137 160**	**137 160**
IV. GMOs	Staff time	Professional support, two P–3 staff: each at 5 per cent of FTE	18 090	18 090	18 090	18 090
	Subcontracts	Consultancy (preparation of the required material)	4 000	4 000	4 000	4 000

Work area	*Cost type*	*Description*	*Average estimated costs in US$ per year*[a]			
			2015	*2016*	*2017*	*2015–2017 annual average*
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	Eligible participants travel to event (e.g., workshop, round table)	—	34 000	—	11 333
	Travel, DSA (staff)	Missions	3 500	3 500	3 500	3 500
Subtotal			**25 590**	**59 590**	**25 590**	**36 923**
V. Compliance mechanism	Staff time	Professional support, three P-3 staff: one at 70 per cent and two at 10 per cent each of FTE	162 810	162 810	162 810	162 810
	Subcontracts	Consultancy (e.g., translation outside United Nations, preparation of the required material)	25 000	25 000	25 000	25 000
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	Committee members, other participants (four Compliance Committee meetings per year)	91 800	91 800	91 800	91 800
	Travel, DSA (Staff)	Missions	9 800	9 800	9 800	9 800
Subtotal			**289 410**	**289 410**	**289 410**	**289 410**
VI. Capacity-building[d]	Staff time	Professional support, two P–3 staff: one at 10 per cent and one at 5 per cent of FTE	27 135	27 135	27 135	27 135
	Subcontracts	Consultancy (e.g., capacity-building activities, materials, studies)	7 000	7 000	7 000	7 000
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	Eligible experts (e.g., annual meeting of capacity-building partners, capacity-building activities)	6 800	6 800	6 800	6 800
	Travel, DSA (staff)	Missions	11 200	11 200	11 200	11 200
Subtotal			**52 135**	**52 135**	**52 135**	**52 135**
VII. Reporting mechanism	Subcontracts	Consultancy (processing of national implementation reports, preparation of the synthesis report)	—	10 000	20 000	10 000
Subtotal			—	**10 000**	**20 000**	**10 000**
VIII. Awareness-raising and promotion of the Convention	Staff time	Professional support, three P-3 staff: one at 20 per cent and two at 5 per cent each of FTE	54 270	54 270	54 270	54 270
	Subcontracts	Consultancy (publications, promotion materials)	14 000	14 000	14 000	14 000[e]
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	Participation in events and country missions to promote the Convention	23 800	23 800	23 800	23 800

Work area	*Cost type*	*Description*	*Average estimated costs in US$ per year*[a]			
			2015	*2016*	*2017*	*2015–2017 annual average*
	Travel, DSA (Staff)	Participation at relevant events where no other funding is available	17 500	17 500	17 500	17 500
Subtotal			**109 570**	**109 570**	**109 570**	**109 570**
IX. Promotion of the Almaty Guidelines and other interlinkages with relevant international bodies and processes	Staff time	Professional support, one P-3 staff at 15 per cent of FTE	27 135	27 135	27 135	27 135
	Subcontracts	Consultancy (expert studies)	5 000	5 000	5 000	5 000
	Travel, DSA (experts)	Expert missions	3 400	3 400	3 400	3 400
	Travel, DSA (staff)	Missions	3 500	3 500	3 500	3 500
Subtotal			**39 035**	**39 035**	**39 035**	**39 035**
X. Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities, including sixth ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties	Staff time[f]	Professional support, three P-3 staff: one at 15 per cent; one at 10 per cent and one at 5 per cent of FTE	54 270	54 27	54 270	54 270
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	Eligible participants (meetings of Working Group of the Parties, Bureau, sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties)	47 600	47 600	102 000	65 733
	Travel, DSA ,staff)		3 500	3 500	3 500	3 500
Subtotal			**105 370**	**105 370**	**159 770**	**123 503**
XI. Sixth ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties						[a]
XII. Horizontal support areas	Secretarial support (G–5)[h]	General support	140 000	140 000	140 000	140 000
	Technical support costs	Computers, equipment, external printing	6 000	6 000	6 000	6 000
	Training of staff	Training activities to enhance staff skills	4 000	4 000	4 000	4 000
Subtotal			**150 000**	**150 000**	**150 000**	**150 000**

Work area	*Cost type*	*Description*	*Average estimated costs in US$ per year*[a]			
			2015	*2016*	*2017*	*2015–2017 annual average*
Total			**1 194 680**	**1 238 680**	**1 269 080**	**1 234 147**
Programme support costs (13%)			155 308	161 028	164 980	160 439
Grand total			**1 349 988**	**1 399 708**	**1 434 060**	**1 394 586**

[a] The estimated costs shown here are limited to those intended to be covered by voluntary contributions made under the Convention's scheme of financial arrangements, either through its trust fund or in kind. They do not include costs that are expected to be covered by the United Nations regular budget or other sources. Figures are rounded up. They may change in accordance with the United Nations administrative regulations.

[b] Including responsibility for electronic information tools under the Convention and Protocol.

[c] Professional staff costs are estimated by multiplying expected staff time in each activity area by the projected annual salary costs of staff hired at the level indicated.

[d] This category of activities encompasses activities that build capacity in areas that relate to the Convention as a whole. Capacity-building activities relating to a specific topic under the Convention (e.g., electronic information tools, access to justice) are covered under those activity areas.

[e] In line with past practice, it is anticipated that some publications will be funded from the United Nations regular budget.

[f] Including provision of legal advice and general tasks.

[g] Costs are reported under work area X.

[h] This staff member would also support administrative activities under the reporting mechanism and other administrative tasks in relation to preparation for the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties. The extrabudgetary secretarial support will be required as of the last quarter of the year preceding the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties. In the event that currently available staff funded by the 13 per cent programme support costs, levied from the trust funds of the ECE Environment Division, is discontinued, the secretarial support at the G–5 level will need to be increased to 100 per cent throughout the triennium, as shown in the table above.

Annex III

Overview of extrabudgetary staff needs to be covered from the Convention trust fund[a]

1. The following estimation of staff needs for the period 2015–2017 is based on the experience with regard to the implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014. The estimate aims to provide an overview of staff needs that reflects the reality of the requirements for implementation of the work programme as closely as possible. The information below is also shown in table format on the following page, for ease of reference.

(a) One P-3 Environmental Affairs Officer[b]

2. One P-3 Environmental Affairs Officer will be responsible for the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee (70);[c] work on access to justice (10); awareness-raising and promotion (5); support to the main bodies under the Convention; and expert legal support to the secretariat (15).

(b) One P-3 Environmental Affairs Officer[d]

3. One P-3 Environmental Affairs Officer will be responsible for electronic information tools for the Convention and Protocol, the Aarhus Clearinghouse, PRTR.net and web content management (20); other responsibilities include servicing of all activities under the Protocol on PRTRs funded from the contributions earmarked for the Protocol (80).

(c) One P-3 Environmental Affairs Officer[e]

4. One P-3 Environmental Affairs Officer will be responsible for work on public participation in decision-making (40); GMOs (5); providing support to the Compliance Committee (10); the main bodies under the Convention (5); capacity-building (5); and

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[a] The secretariat is currently serviced by three staff members funded through the United Nations regular budget: one at the P-4 level, one at the P-2 level (recruited through National Competitive Examinations/young professionals programme) and one at 50 per cent at the G-5 level. One G-3 Programme Assistant is financed through the 13 per cent of programme support costs levied from the trust funds of the ECE Environment Division. Extension of the latter contract is subject to availability of the required amount from the programme support costs in the Convention's trust fund.

[b] This post is currently held by a P-3 Environmental Affairs Officer responsible for, inter alia, the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee, work on access to justice and expert legal support to the secretariat.

[c] Figures contained in parentheses in this annex refer to the percentage of work time for each staff member, as compared with 100 per cent capacity for a full-time post.

[d] This post is currently held by a P-3 Environmental affairs Officer who performs tasks for both the Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs, and is responsible for, inter alia, the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs, the PRTR Compliance Committee and the PRTR Bureau and Working Group of the Parties; PRTR.net and the Aarhus Clearinghouse; and electronic information tools, awareness-raising and promotion of the Protocol.

[e] This post is currently vacant and temporarily occupied by a short-term P-2 Environmental Affairs Officer responsible for, inter alia, work on public participation in international forums; genetically modified organisms; the Aarhus Convention Implementation Guide and outreach.

outreach, awareness-raising and promotion of the Almaty Guidelines and other interlinkages with relevant international bodies and processes (35).

(d) One P-3 Environmental Affairs Officer[1]

5. One P-3 Environmental Affairs Officer will be responsible for work on access to information (30); access to justice (30); GMOs (5); providing support to the Compliance Committee (10); the main bodies under the Convention (10); capacity-building (10); and awareness-raising (5). In 2017 (or other year, if the date is changed) the staff member will also support organization of the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties, including coordination with the host country regarding logistics and finance, overseeing nominations/participation and credentials, and provide support in the preparation of meeting documentation.

(e) One G-5 Programme Assistant

6. During the last quarter of the year preceding the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties (2017), an additional programme assistant could be hired to provide horizontal administrative support, including for the Working Group of the Parties, the Meeting of the Parties, the Bureau, the Compliance Committee and national reporting.

[1] This post is currently held by a P-3 Environmental Affairs Officer, responsible for, inter alia, work on access to information, access to justice; capacity-building; and support to the Compliance Committee.

Table of estimated extrabudgetary staff needs for 2015–2017

	Activities							
Post	*Access to information, including electronic information tools, Aarhus Clearinghouse and web management*	*Public participation in decision-making*	*Access to justice*	*GMOs*	*Compliance Committee*	*Capacity-building*	*Awareness-raising and promotion, including promotion of Almaty Guidelines and other interlinkages with relevant international bodies and processes*	*Working Group of the Parties, Meeting of the Parties, Bureau, legal advice and general tasks*
(a) P–3 full time	—	—	10	—	70	—	5	15
(b) P–3 part-time	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) P–3 full time	—	40	—	5	10	5	35	5
(d) P–3 full time	30	—	30	5	10	10	5	10
(e) G–5 full time	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	65

Note: Figures in the table refer to an aggregate estimated percentage of work time for each staff member for three years, as compared with 100 per cent for a full-time post.